

# Livelihoods Working Group meeting

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## MoMs

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### Agenda:

- One-time cash assistance to individuals hit hardest by jobs losses: Identification and Eligibility
- COVID-19 Mapping Services: Here is the link to the online tool, partners just need to fill directly under the LH sector, the tool also provide necessary guidance for filling the Services Mapping Template <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qzKFF3BTtVjUs68E71kvyKd8xqHXN7T5X6bWiHVoVrQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- Funding requirements

### One-time cash assistance

- Danish Refugee Council and other assessments indicate a clear risk that refugee households will be unable to meet their basic needs unless alternative income streams are identified. according to ILO, small and medium enterprises, the self-employed, and daily wage earners are hit the hardest. The current crisis threatens to push back the limited gains made on employment and women's equal participation in the labour force.
- Effects of massive job losses are expected to be substantial in economies with a large informal sector, which is generally out of reach of public policies
- The government is at the frontline of the epidemic, still Partners all have to work in a coordinated manner. A coordinated approach will enable a quick response, a collective examination of impacts, coordination of measures and sharing best practices and the lessons learned soon.
- The LH sector need to focus on low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises and the informal sector. Important steps have already started in this direction. This must be scaled up
- The LH sector will engage closely with the Basic Needs sector to help identify potential households for emergency cash assistance (subject to funding).
- A Covid-19 Response Task Force (CRTF) was set up in mid-March as way to deliver coordinated assistance. CRTF represents 28 organizations coordinating the response to ensure maximum coverage of vulnerable families without duplication of effort.
- COVID response is not replacing existing Basic Needs Programs, and existing programs should not be re-labelled "COVID" funds because this will require approvals from line ministries and may be donors.
- Expanded Population - COVID appeal funding will be used on a new population, not currently receiving basic needs assistance. The population will be defined as families who had access to minimal livelihoods/work income prior to the COVID crisis and have now lost their income due to mobility restrictions and business shutdowns.

- A safety net package has been developed along with eligibility criteria comprising of 48,831 families. To avoid deduplication, cases will be blocked on RAIS.
- The safety net package would as far as possible be aligned with the plans of the Ministry of Social Development, taking into account that **studies have shown that the costs of living for refugees outside camps is higher than for national citizens living in poverty** (largely due to housing expenses)
- Distribution to Jordanian families will follow the guidance of the Ministry of Social Development and MOPIC, by coordinating with the identified national NGOs (JHCO, Tkiyat Um Ali and Red Crescent).

### Identification principles

- Target households that had minimal income prior to COVID-19 measures, with assumption that they have **lost their usual source of livelihood** and will struggle to cover basic needs in the short-term.
- Expand (not top-up) the population served by Basic Needs sector for a limited period. These families should be able to return to work/livelihoods options once the crisis abates. The currently 'social assistance' population will not be included in the identification.
- **Use of existing data** (VAF indicators and Registration bio data and special needs) to determine eligibility
- **Create a common pool of cases that can be referenced and booked by all partners.**
- Common pool will exclude any cases currently receiving basic needs assistance from any partner under an existing programme
- **Partners can use additional filters/criteria to prioritize beneficiaries or focus on geographic locations**

### Levels of Assistance (standard packages)

Safety net packages are aligned to the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB). Continued principle of complimentary assistance will continue through coordination with WFP. WFP is part of the COVID-19 Response Task Force, and will cover food assistance for all the sample (48,000+)

### Safety Net Package

<b>Category</b>	<b>FS 1</b>	<b>FS 2</b>	<b>FS 3</b>	<b>FS 4</b>	<b>FS 5</b>	<b>FS 6</b>	<b>FS 7+</b>
Rent	73.51	96.36	107.37	114.48	120.59	122.11	126.17
Utilities	14.92	19.04	21.62	23.23	23.98	25.19	26.69
Water	4.49	6.19	7.72	8.53	9.16	10.06	10.99
<b>Safety net package</b>	<b>92.92</b>	<b>121.59</b>	<b>136.71</b>	<b>146.24</b>	<b>153.73</b>	<b>157.36</b>	<b>163.85</b>
<b>MOSD assistance (expected amt)</b>	<b>50</b>						<b>135</b>
<b>Food Assistance (WFP)</b>	<b>19.92</b>	<b>39.84</b>	<b>59.76</b>	<b>79.67</b>	<b>99.59</b>	<b>119.51</b>	<b>139.43</b>

NFI assistance for Jordanian population should be channeled through the Government's identified national NGOs responsible for the emergency response: Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), Tkiyet Um Ali and Red Crescent. The three national NGOs are delivering baskets of food and non-food

items. The first delivery will focus on 35,000 households. Any organizations planning in-kind distributions to Jordanian households should contact: Arwa Abu Hudaib/JHCO: 0790851099 a.abuhudib@jhco.org.jo

How to be part of this

- A COVID coordination module is developed on RAIS. Organizations disbursing COVID funds must first have funding and approvals from GoJ and then “book” cases on RAIS before distributing assistance to avoid duplication (**booking in advance**). As soon as assistance is distributed, it should be uploaded as ‘assisted’ in RAIS (**recording assistance as soon as it is completed**).
- Overall objective is to help families get through the crisis without incurring high levels of debt.
- Information will be channeled to beneficiaries through channels currently available. And will use consistent language to POCs
- Disbursement of Covid-19 Emergency Assistance as soon as funding is available

## COVID-19 LH Mapping Services

Here is the link to the online tool, partners just need to fill directly under the LH sector, the tool also provide necessary guidance for filling the Services Mapping Template <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qzKFF3BTtVjUs68E71kvyKd8xqHXN7T5X6bWiHVovrQ/edit?usp=sharing>

## Funding requirements

All sectors were urgently requested by the Inter-Sector Working Group to provide the sector-level funding requirements for the planned and ongoing COVID-19 response between April and December 2020 (nine months in total). This is the separate funding requirement from the regular 3RP funding appeal in 2020. Would you please provide your agency’s required funding amount in Livelihoods response to COVID-19 [here](#) for the next nine months?, then send it back to Saud Alsakr at : [alsakr@unhcr.org](mailto:alsakr@unhcr.org) . Please also carefully refer to the guidance note – which is important.

## Key sector challenges

- Funding; cash stimulus at a large scale is required with targeted measures aimed at assisting individuals hit hardest by jobs losses. Cash transfers during the pandemic will help people to get through while supporting people’s resilience and contributing to economic recovery afterwards. Measures will need to be taken to support the informal sector, and support to enterprises, particularly to SMEs, is needed to maintain their sustainability if not their existence.

- On gender, there is a need to collect gender-disaggregated data to ensure that the crisis does not disproportionately affect women who lost their jobs or self-employment activities, and to ensure that emergency economic schemes takes a gender perspective specific constraint for women entrepreneurs and women in the informal sector
- The COVID crises threatens to push back the limited gains made on employment and women's equal participation in the Labour force. Additional funding is required to maintain, if not rescue, all efforts spend before COVID-19.